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the Wire

“HONOR BOUND TO DEFEND FREEDOM”

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Safety Assured as Ivan Breezes Past GTMO



Photo by Spc. Jim Greenhill

Hurricane Ivan passed through Cuba on Friday, affecting Troopers in Guantanamo Bay. Heavy rains, high winds and crashing waves kept Troopers confined to quarters for part of that time. For the full story, see page 6.

Inside The Wire ...



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Trooper To Trooper

Training for Success and Victory at GTMO



By Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Febles

This issue of the Wire covers many issues I consider extremely important—one of which is training. The standards of training and how we train are what sets us apart from all other military forces in the free world. In fact, it is our recipe for success and victory on the battlefield. In short, we train for the unexpected because, in our business, surprise translates to unnecessary loss of human lives. In military terms, “surprise” is not something we want to be victims of. That is why we plan, prepare and train for all types of possibilities, conditions and contingencies of the world.

A perfect example of the unexpected was Hurricane Ivan. Months before Hurricane Ivan, we began planning for a training event involving a destructive weather scenario. The purpose was to test all our capabilities. We set the conditions for the event, replicating just about everything. The only thing we could not plan to replicate was the actual adverse weather.

The week the training was to occur was the week Hurricane Ivan was predicted to impact Guantanamo Bay—perfect. We then had a real world situation

that would test our plan. We were fortunate the storm changed its course, and the worst we experienced were high winds and heavy rains. During the hurricane, we had only tested 2/3 of the plan. We expect to train for the whole event in the near future.

Although the JTF-GTMO in partnership with the NAVBASE did a superb job, we can further improve in many areas. The leadership will conduct a self assessment in the form of an After-Action-Review to identify the lessons learned. The intent is to learn our shortcomings, adjust the plan and train to get better.

The bottom line is we must be proactive—not reactive. It takes leader involvement to ensure we are training correctly with the major focus on the critical tasks that translate to mission accomplishment. We must train in preparation for all the conditions of the world. The intent is to train to standard—not time—to train under realistic conditions (short of combat) and most importantly, infuse risk management in order to train safely. That is what makes our armed services great.

Again, thanks for a job well done.
Honor Bound!

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Infantry Dives in to Combat Water Survival Training

By Spc. Jody Metzger

The eight-mile rucksack march began at 2 a.m., but for members of Delta Co., 2-113th Infantry, the training didn't end until much later in the day. By 8 a.m. they gathered at the Marine Hill swimming pool for Combat Water Survival Training (CWST). Leaving their swimming suits home, the Troopers jumped into the pool with full battle rattle. Loaded with more than 60 pounds of equipment including rucksack, Load Bearing Vest (LBV) and the M-16, the JTF Troopers found a challenging day of training.

Developed to educate the Troopers on combat water readiness, CWST is a four-course event designed to improve physical and mental ability of Troopers. The course events included swimming 25 meters with full rucksack, the LBV ditch exercise, swimming 15 meters with LBV and M-16, and treading water for five minutes while in uniform.

Although swimming for the infantry may have seemed unusual, the training enabled these Troopers to become more familiar and confident in water. "We try to increase the Troopers' confidence by giving them more time in the water," said Army 2nd Lt. Jeffery Williamson, 2nd Platoon leader for Delta Company, also an instructor for the water-training class. "Not all Troopers can swim."

Recognizing the danger of this type of training, safety precautions were taken. Led by Williamson, several other lifeguards worked as assistant instructors aiding in training safety. "It's important to have lifeguards because we have a lot of weak swimmers or non-swimmers negotiating these courses," said Sgt. Nathaniel Montanez, lifeguard and A-Team leader, Delta Company.

Preparing for the first event, Troopers filled their wet-weather bags with air. Tied and secured in the rucksack, the Troopers were able to use the bags as flotation devices. This enabled them to swim the 25 meters. Once at the end, burdened by extra water weight, Troopers used both hands to pull themselves out of the pool's nine-foot depths.

The second event was the LBV ditch, an exercise designed to test the Troopers' confidence in their ability to deal with abnormal situations. After jumping into the water, Troopers must release the clasps and take off the equipment before resurfacing.

Carrying M-16s over their heads, many Troopers fought to stay above water. This is one of the most trying and repeated events. Troopers held nothing back as they made their way down the water lane. Gasping with fatigue, the heaviness of the equipment dragged the team members down. Teaching real life situations, Williamson said: "Sometimes you've got to cross rivers and certain places where we would have to swim across with all the equipment. You basically have to swim on your own."

Throughout the training, Troopers shouted cheers of encouragement to those finishing up the last event. Five minutes of treading water required Troopers to remain relaxed and focused. "Float on your back. Don't go near the wall. Take your time," shouted Montanez.

Whether a Trooper is a great swimmer or a weak one, swimming in the battle-dress uniform and combat gear can be taxing. Spc. Eliezer Mieses said he knows how to swim, but the standard of holding a weapon above water while swimming changed the situation. "It's tough, but we got it done," Mieses said. "You've got to keep your weap-

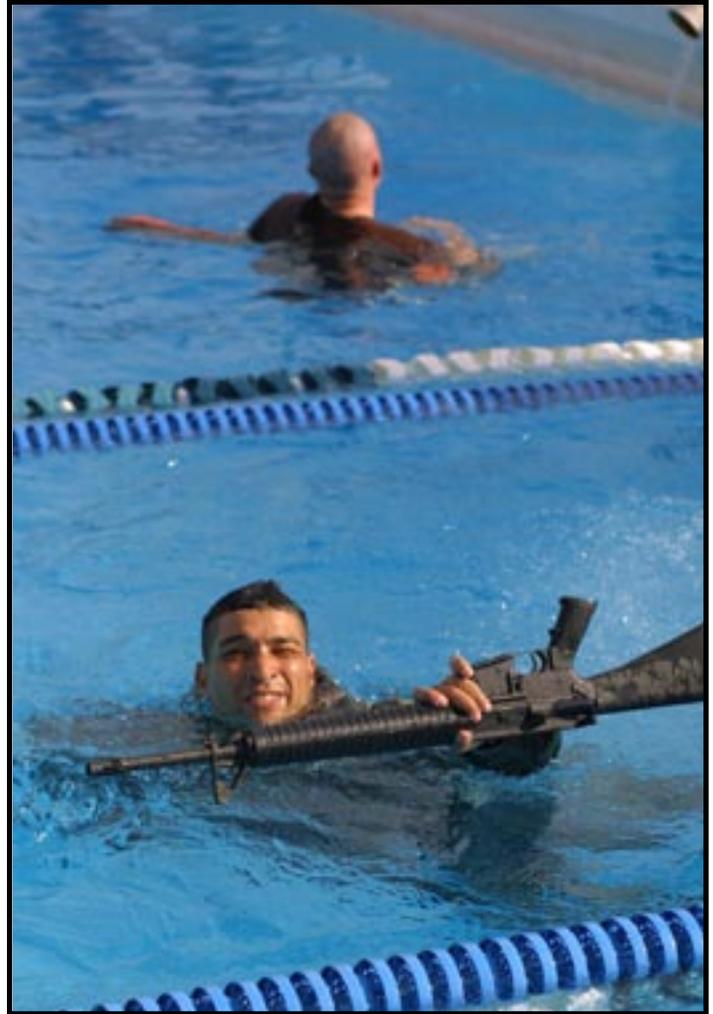


Photo by Spc. Jody Metzger

Troopers of Co. D, 2-113th Infantry, train on keeping their weapons dry while swimming in full gear at the Marine Hill swimming pool for Combat Water Survival Training. Training included 25-meter swims with rucksacks, LBV ditch exercises and treading water for five minutes while in full uniform. 2nd Lt. Jeffery Williamson, an instructor for the class, said that while infantry Troopers are about the ground, "sometimes there is water separating one piece of ground from another."

on and yourself above water. I swim, but I am not that good of a swimmer." One of the toughest things about the course Mieses experienced was when he started to panic. "You are trying to keep yourself and the weapon above water." The course is designed to "help your confidence if you ever have to encounter a situation like this," Mieses said.

"Training like you fight," is a common motto for the Infantry. "Infantry guys," Williamson

said, "are about the ground, but sometimes there is water separating one piece of ground from another."

Although not all Troopers can swim, it is one of the things Williamson said the Infantry is improving upon. A cornerstone in the development of training for the infantry, the combat water survival training sheds new light on the importance of being battle ready and fully capable for any challenge.

From Seatbelts to Speeding, GTMO Focuses on Safety

By Spc. Simon Cropp

GTMO has not seen a fatal car accident in years. Sure, the base has its fair share of unsafe back-ups and door dings, but overall the safety on the roads of Guantanamo Bay is great considering the amount of traffic. With a new rotation of Troopers here, it is important to remember the rules that keep pedestrians, drivers and passengers safe on the roads.

There are "rules of the road" here and Petty Officer Patricia Peterson, leading petty officer of the Vehicle Registration Office, said it is always important to keep these rules in mind when on the road. The speed limit rarely exceeds 25 miles per hour, in some cases 15 miles per hour. Seatbelts are required at all times in all vehicles, and no passing—ever.

"If there is a slow vehicle in the road, then the driver needs to wait until the vehicle pulls off and if it doesn't, then [the driver] should just follow on," Peterson said. U-turns are also prohibited on base. These are all measures taken by the naval station police department to ensure all travelers are safe throughout their deployments and duty here in Guantanamo.

"Some of the more common traffic violations are speeding and using seatbelts," Peterson said. "People still aren't buckling up." To combat this,

there is a strict policy in place regarding the seatbelt law. The driver is fined two points on his license with a maximum of 12, and two points for every passenger in the vehicle that is not buckled in. So, according to Peterson, if there are four people in a vehicle, then the driver will have eight points put on his license. Once 12 points is reached, the driver stands to lose his license.

"Driving on base is a privilege," Peterson said. The rules of the road in GTMO are set to the same basic structure as the laws in place in Florida, and most of the rest of the United States with a few variations.

Since seatbelts and speeding are such common problems in GTMO, the naval station police are especially watchful for these offenders. According to Peterson they are taught to eye all vehicles to ensure seatbelts are buckled and safety is forefront in the mind of the driver.

The recent changes in seatbelt laws across America have resulted in the lowest vehicle-related fatality rate in the last 29 years since records have been kept on the subject. Not only that, but injuries related to driving in 2003 are also the lowest in the last 29 years, and this stands as strong evidence that seatbelts do save lives. Of those who were killed in accidents in 2003, over 50 percent of those were not buckled up. Troopers in GTMO should always wear their seatbelts; not only is it the law, but it also saves lives.

Peterson said that all vehicles registered in Guantanamo need to undergo a vehicle safety inspection, and if the vehicle does not meet safety requirements, it cannot be registered until the deficiencies are corrected.

"This is important to know before buying a vehicle here. [Troopers] should ensure the vehicle can

pass our vehicle inspection," Peterson said.

Troopers should also always remember that if pulled over and suspected of intoxication, then it is required for them to take a breathalyzer test. It is a very serious issue for drivers who fail breathalyzers with either a Driving Under the Influence or Driving While Impaired charge. There is no excuse for this while in GTMO, and Peterson said Troopers are reminded that there are shuttle services in place so that Troopers can always get home safely, without incident.

For Troopers stationed here they should remember, no matter the length of the deployment, it is a short time, and there is no reason to risk health and well-being by not adhering to the safety guidelines of Guantanamo Bay.

Seatbelt statistics and info taken from buckleupamerica.org.



Photo by Sgt. Scott Griffin

Vote 2004: Presidential Elections Around the Corner

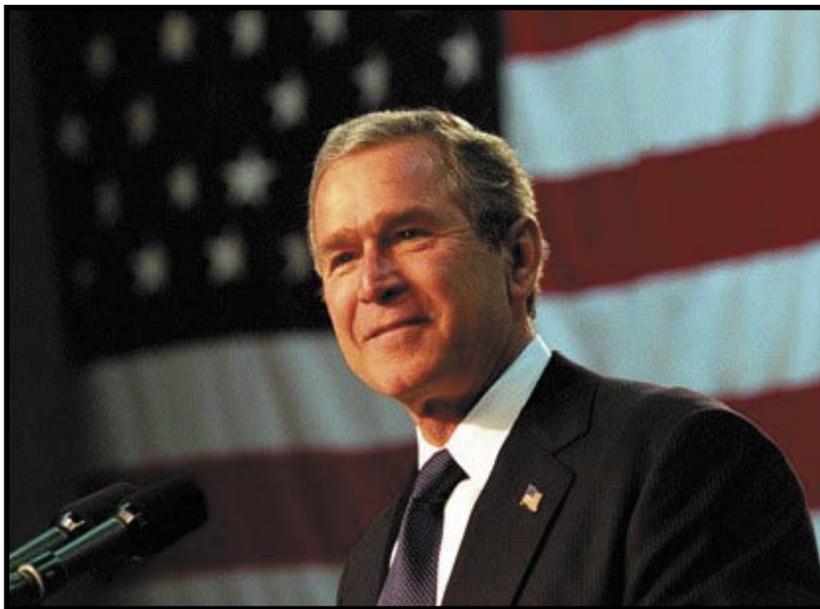
By *Spc. Simon Cropp*

The presidential elections are just around the corner, and Troopers in Guantanamo Bay are gearing to be part of history and contribute to the selection of the next United States president. With many Troopers working long days in the wire or patrolling the perimeters of the base and often spending late nights in the multitude of support tasks required to make this Joint Task Force flourish, making time to watch news coverage of the elections is not always feasible. Here is a look at the two major candidates, their visions in unbiased terms, and where they stand in the midst of the current political climate in America.

President George W. Bush is the defending champion looking for another four-year term and he has built a lot of programs and defenses from the ground up in the wake of September 11, 2001. Bush wants to focus on more than just the War on Terror, though sometimes that message does not always come through. Education is an important issue, and Bush continues to support the No

Child Left Behind act he proposed to help slim down the achievement gap between rich and poor students. The act has been widely viewed as bipartisan and was passed in an overwhelming majority. Some analysts, like the Ohio News Network, believe the act has already shown results and Bush stands firmly behind this platform.

One of the bigger stances Bush took in this election was on the country's economy and his promise to create more jobs at a faster pace for unemployed Americans. This has been one of Bush's bigger hurdles in the last four years, but his promise is to attack the problem with a renewed intensity. Of course, one of Bush's primary concerns is Homeland Security. There are many plans in place to further make the program a success and, in turn, keep Americans safe from outside



forces who would threaten harm. While many programs such as stronger border control and stricter airport security were implemented, Bush promises Homeland Security will continue to evolve.

Senator John Kerry is the challenger. He has many plans and ideas for how he would make changes for the better in America, but often these issues are overshadowed by the mud-slinging about Swift Boat ads and his Vietnam record.

Kerry plans on tax cuts to help rejuvenate the economy, but says his tax cuts will benefit the businesses that help to create jobs for Americans. His goal is three million jobs in the first 500 days in office. Along with the economy, he hopes to focus on making healthcare more affordable and, most notably he wants

to focus on the environment. Cleaner and more efficient fuel sources and a greener America are important to all voters, and Kerry zeroes in on this as one of his primary goals.

The war in Iraq is the most important issue currently, however, and neither the president nor the challenger can afford to not take a stance on this. Basically, it is agreed by both that peace must be achieved in Iraq, and the volatile situation needs clear leadership and decisive action for that goal to be reached. Though no plans have been outlined in detail, expect this one to come up often in the debates as America tries to get a feel on how both candidates propose to stop the violence in Iraq.

Also, Kerry has a precise plan in place for Homeland Security, which he feels is one of the most important parts of the War on Terror. He has a six-point plan in place to beef up securities in America without harming the American way of life, from strengthening border security to streamlining intelligence-agency issues that still have not been addressed since Sept. 11, 2001.



Ivan Storms Caribbean

By Pfc. Chris Gardner



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

Abraham Bobachan and Shijo Chacko install emergency flood lights in Camp America. More than 40 lights were installed by civilian contractors in power-outage anticipation.

Fierce, relentless and unpredictable—these words have one thing in common: hurricane. The projected paths of recent forces, namely Charley and Frances, cried a wolf named Ivan—now responsible for almost 80 deaths, authorities say. Luckily, Guantanamo Bay charted as no more than a drop in its background bucket.

Trooper speculation mixed with “shifty” tracking reports last week amounted to unofficial forecasts—either close calamity with windy weather and high wakes or distant disaster to neighboring countries.

According to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, 37 deaths have occurred in Grenada, and 90 percent of Grenadian homes have been damaged, estimates suggest.

In the cubbyhole of Guantanamo Bay, however, certain residents secretly hoped for a peek at the category-five brute.

“For me, it’s cool. I’ve never seen a hurricane,” said Staff Sgt. Corry Driscoll, 783rd Military Police Battallion. Driscoll said he wants to see the hurricane “out of curiosity,” but “I don’t want to see anyone get

hurt,” he added. “I wouldn’t look forward to any destruction.”

The storm’s potential confined Troopers to their Camp America billets Friday, leaving it virtually desolate on the outside. While damage seems minimal, specific reports have yet to be released.

In contrast, estimated damage from Hurricane Andrew in 1992 amounted to a costly \$25 billion. Furthermore, another hurricane, the 1970 Bangladesh Cyclone, killed approximately 300,000 people, being quite possibly the deadliest hurricane ever. Fortunately for Troopers, Guantanamo tolled zero injuries, let alone deaths.

While Ivan’s catastrophic effects were not revealed here, preparations for such were.

“Better to plan ahead and be safe than have the storm hit and people get hurt,” said Joint Task Force (JTF) Headquarters 1st Sgt. Christopher Sheridan.

Bicycles and newly afforded Camp America picnic tables disappeared into storage rooms, starting Thursday, emptying the vicinity of potential projectiles.

Found in the JTF were hurricane-experienced Troopers.



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Laddan

JTF Troopers lay sandbags Thursday in preparation for Hurricane Ivan. More than 60 Troopers contributed in efforts to prevent flooding in lower Camp America.

“I don’t want to see get hurt.”

—Staff S



Photo by S

Staff Sgt. Glynis Gordon-Williams receives water from Sgt. 1st Class Bernard Wright, while preparing for Hurricane Ivan. Troopers have ample water and Meals Ready to Eat be

Lean, Skipping GTMO Cubbyhole

“I’m used to it,” said Sgt. 1st Class Bernard Wright, noncommissioned officer in charge of J4 with 383rd Quartermaster Company. Bernard said he felt very prepared. Being from Miami, he recalled 1992’s Hurricane Andrew uprooting an apricot tree and smashing it against his utility shed.

With the storm closing in, Air Force Master Sgt. Edward Mercado of JTF Headquarters said, “I knew exactly when to change gears.” Trained in wilderness survival, Mercado felt uniquely prepared. “I have made my shelters when it was 50 below,” he said. An Army Ranger Escape and Evasion course once left him three days with only two canteens of water in the panhandle of Florida where living off the land became crucial.

His experience there drove him to the NEX here five days before the storm to buy hand sanitizer and towelettes, batteries and dried foods such as beef jerky.

Aside from individual preparations are those of the base.

When storms are imminent with 100-knot (115 miles per hour) winds plus, the base has established plans for safety and a Joint Operations Center is stood up. A JOC is a jointly

manned facility of a joint force commander’s headquarters established for planning, monitoring and guiding the execution of the commander’s decisions during the storm.

Navt Lt. j.g. Steve Phelps said that individual preparations include the distribution of hurricane kits for males and females containing batteries, baby wipes, flashlights, pocket radios, toilet paper, duct tape and other gender-specific necessities.

Senior Airman Neo Martin and CNN.com contributed to this report.



Image courtesy NOAA



Photo by Senior Airman Neo Martin

From left: Sgt. Maj. Anthony Cahill, Spc. David Carter, Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Emerson, JTF transportation members, pick up computers from J4 during pre-hurricane preparations. The Troopers delivered the equipment to an alternate Joint Operations Center. A JOC is a jointly manned facility of a joint force commander’s headquarters established for planning, monitoring, and guiding the execution of the commander’s decisions.

anyone

Sgt. Corry Driscoll



Senior Airman Neo Martin

**believes a case of
t, JTF Transpor-
n. Troopers had
before the storm.**



Photo by Spc. Jim Greenhill

Ivan’s radial winds sustained at up to 160 miles per hour outstretched to GTMO shores Friday.

Bike, Hike or Tread Trails

Tips on Safety and Preparation



Story and photos by Pfc. Jessi Stone

The infantrymen aren't the only ones who can scour the wilderness of Guantanamo Bay. There are more than ten designated public hiking trails scattered throughout the base, most of which are located along the sides of Kittery Beach Road from the Golf Course to Tierra Kay Housing. Each of the trails are different, some more suited for running, some for biking and others for hiking.

Hiking, trail running and mountain biking are relaxing and rewarding activities that are not just reserved for the serious outdoorsman. In addition to being great forms of exercise, they are excellent opportunities to get back to

nature, be alone with thoughts and see spectacular views. They can also be a great way to have fun with a group of friends.

Though none of the trails in GTMO are long enough for an extensive backpacking adventure, the trails still present significant challenges to the beginning to intermediate hiker and biker. If you have never hiked or biked before, here is a great place to get started.

All of the trailheads are as wide as dirt roads, which makes them easy to spot. They quickly narrow out as the paths continue. The trailheads are also marked with green signs informing hikers, bikers and runners of the name of the trail and its difficulty rating. Trail difficulty ratings are simple: Easiest, more difficult, and most difficult. These signs are easily spotted from the roadside.

The longest trail is the Hutia Highway, which is approximately three miles long. It twists through the hills behind the golf course and Tierra Kay (TK) Housing. The trailheads for this trail can be found on Kittery Beach Road near the golf course and also near the bend in the road between TK housing and the checkpoint to enter Camp America. With steep hills, loose rock and lots of twists and turns, this trail

is well suited for hiking. Though running and mountain biking would be possible on this trail, the terrain would make it difficult and perhaps even hazardous for the inexperienced trail runner and mountain biker. This trail is riddled with gorgeous views and interesting plant and wildlife, making it a fun, beautiful hike. This trail was rated as more difficult.

Another long trail is the Ridgeline Trail, which runs on top of the hill line along the north side of Kittery Beach Road. This trail is a flatter running trail better suited for trail running and mountain biking than Hutia Highway. The trailheads to this one are only accessible from other, shorter paths, such as Pelican Pass or Tern Way, both of which are located on the north side of Kittery Beach Road as well. Once at the top of the ridge, there are a few small hills and turns, but the trail is relatively flat. The view is spectacular; the whole base can be seen. This trail was also rated as more difficult.

Hiking is not complicated, but the beginning hiker may have a few questions about how to get started. Here are some tips for beginning hikers from the L.L. Bean Magazine web site (www.llbean.com).



Hiking Tips

- Start out slowly, gradually increasing your pace and distance traveled.
- Let the slowest person in your hiking party set the pace.
- Plan the trip ahead of time and assign tasks that people enjoy. The goal is to have a good time outdoors.
- Take turns leading the group and sharing decision-making responsibilities.
- Hike only on marked trails in wilderness areas unless bushwhacking is allowed and you have excellent navigation skills.
- Hike in groups as much as



possible, especially during winter and on hazardous terrain.

- Leave your itinerary with a friend or family member, and check in with them upon your return.
 - Wear sunglasses and a hat or visor when you hike.
 - Always bring sunscreen.
 - Develop an emergency plan before you start your trip. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they become lost or a medical emergency arises.
 - Take frequent rests or vary your pace to recover from strenuous activity spurts. A steady pace works best.
 - Drink plenty of water. Water is heavy to carry, but thirst on the trail is a hazard. Take a tip from athletes: Before a hike, drink some water so you're well hydrated and energized. Don't run out of water. Backcountry water supplies are unpredictable. Treat or filter all water.
 - Pack carbohydrates: Energy bars, granola, candy and fruit provide an instant pick-me-up on the trail.
 - Bring a first-aid kit tailored to your outing.
- The rules of the trails here are easy and few. Bikers should yield to hikers and runners when they meet on the trails, and no one should wander off the trails. Most important, it is essential that you leave the trail the way you found it. Whatever you brought with on the



trail should be taken out again. Do not leave trash or food.

A day on the trails could be one of the most exhilarating and rewarding days of exercise a Trooper can spend. So go, pack a picnic lunch and hit the trails. The reward will be lunch at the top of Guantanamo Bay.

27-Year Veteran Honored to Serve

Capt. Brian Wotring swears in Sgt. 1st Class Jeannie Morehart as she reenlists at Camp Delta on the morning of Sep. 11. "I wasn't going to reenlist," she said, "but after starting this tour and now knowing the importance of this mission, I couldn't justify any reason for my wanting to quit. I feel honored to reenlist on a day that so many men and women gave their lives to save others." A veteran of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, Morehart volunteered to serve here as part of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 367th Military Police Co. from Horsham, Penn.



WORLD WIRE

... News ... Sports ... Entertainment ...

Sept. 8: Congress lets the federal ban on assault rifles expire. The ban had been in place for 10 years. ...

Sept. 11: The nation remembers the tragic events that took place on **Sept. 11, 2001** ...

Sept. 12: A man scales the walls of Buckingham Palace wearing a **Batman** costume. This is an effort to protest and hopefully change laws involving fathers' gaining legal custody of their children. ...

Sept. 13: A baseball player from the Texas Rangers **throws a chair** into an Oakland crowd and breaks a female spectator's nose. The A's and Rangers dispute who is at fault. ... **Resident Evil: Apocalypse** is this weekend's box office hit. ...

Sept. 14: An Indian tribe holds a **war dance** in protest of the Shasta Dam expansion in California, the first time this ritual has been held since 1887. ... John Elway comes forward and announces President Bush as the **nation's quarterback**. ... A 25-year-old man throws his **girlfriend's baby** from a car while being chased by police. Miraculously, the baby is unharmed. The man then fatally crashes his vehicle while still trying to evade the police ...

Sept. 15: A Pennsylvania man pleads guilty to taking an elderly man's **hairpiece** off his head on a bet while dining in a restaurant. ... A new survey shows about one third of employees who write to **effective-**

ly communicate within the workplace do not meet minimum writing requirements. Businesses have acknowledged they need better writers ... Recent studies suggest that with the possibility of many **species soon to be extinct** that it could spiral a whole slew of events out of control causing further extinctions. ... It is expected by many analysts that this year's **presidential election** will be heavily swayed by the absentee ballots of deployed military personnel and the votes from states that have seen a large contingent of their Reserve and National Guard units deployed.

Sp. Simon Cropp compiles the WorldWire from a variety of news services.

WORSHIP WIRE

... Faith ... Belief ... Counseling ...

— The Cost of Discipleship —

During his earthly ministry Jesus called people to become followers or disciples.

Jesus made wonderful promises to anyone who became a disciple: peace, joy and fulfillment in this life, and eternal life in the world to come.

But Jesus also talked about the cost of being a disciple.

In Luke 14:33, Jesus said, "any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."

The cost of discipleship still scares many people away from following Jesus.

In making a decision to follow Jesus, we must weigh the benefits versus the cost.

Here are some examples of what people need to give up to follow Jesus and what they will gain in return:

1. People must give up their plan for their lives, but they will gain a far greater plan for their lives: God's plan. As they give up their master plan, they receive a

plan from the Master.

2. Also, they will have to give up their limited resources in life, but they will gain the unlimited resources of God. The One who created the heavens and the earth offers unlimited resources to those who follow Him.

3. Lastly, people following Jesus will have to give up their finite life, but they will gain eternal life. It is a wise person who will give up what they cannot keep, to gain that which they cannot lose.

Jesus still calls people to be disciples, but He leaves the decision to answer the call up to each of us individually. After weighing out the cost and rewards, I hope you can say in the words of the old spiritual chorus, "I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back!"

—Author Unknown

Padre's Corner

What do we do when life's storms strike?

Many of us spent hours last week making emergency preparations. We made sure we had fresh water, some food, and safe shelter for everyone. Much careful thought has gone into contingency plans for the possibility of a tropical storm or a hurricane here in GTMO. Like the weather, our lives can be quite unpredictable and we may experience feelings of powerlessness.

When all hell breaks loose, why not seek secure protection in the sturdy vessel that is Jesus, the Christ? He has the power to calm the storm and bring peace, even in the midst of seeming chaos.

Why not attend chapel this week? Not a sermon, just a thought...

—Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.)
James Dowds

SPORTS WIRE

Portis Bucks the Bucs; Culpepper Gains Wisdom



Photo courtesy Sports Illustrated

Clinton Portis exploded on his first run of the season, going over 60 yards for a touchdown against a stunned Tampa Bay Defense. Portis racked up around 150 yards and contributed to the Redskins' victory.

By Spc. Simon Cropp

Two hundred and eighty-one yards, five touchdowns thrown, and Daunte Culpepper walks away from the Vikings—Cowboys game last Sunday with a huge victory and a boost going into the season. The big quarterback for the Vikings played like an old veteran, calling audibles at the line and protecting the football with a new sense of awareness. Fans of the Minnesota Vikings hope their young athletic quarterback is finally ready to step head-on into the spotlight.

The first week of the season was a big one in the NFL and the new structures of many old teams proved deadly. Donovan McNabb and Terrel Owens looked unstoppable out there; Clinton Portis ran for over 150 yards, giving the Redskins a big victory over the Buccaneers; and the

NY Giants' Eli Manning found a warm welcome into the NFL after Kurt Warner struggled through most of the game against the Eagles.

Undoubtedly, Daunte Culpepper was the superstar the first day of the NFL season, but he had plenty of competition. The question is will he keep the performance going on into the season? The Culpepper—Moss connection has proved deadly before, and this certainly isn't Culpepper's first stellar showing, but spectators around the country seem to agree that something seems a little different this year. The wisdom of experience may be creeping into Culpepper's style. Watch out, it could be a huge year for the strong-arm quarterback of the NFL.

If Clinton Portis can rush for 150 yards, then so can his Broncos replacement Quentin Griffin. Griffin proved

elusive on the field all night against the Chief's defense, and barring one fumble at the goal-line he looked dynamic. Jake Plummer had a big night too—both for the good and bad—but once the dust settled, the Broncos defense proved tough to beat, and Plummer showed he could manage the Denver offense down the field to score 34 points by the game's end. The Broncos came out against their toughest division rivals, the Chiefs, with a victory.

Kurt Warner struggled mightily behind the shaky Giants offensive line and though at times looked as sharp as he ever had, he more often looked shaky and unpredictable. Eli Manning was sent in to replace Warner at the sound of the final two-minute warning, and it was up to the rookie quarterback to let the old veteran know he was being benched. Manning's first snap of the season was a

handoff which resulted in a huge run up the middle by Tiki Barber. The next snap wasn't so hot and Manning was sacked. Next week, it looks like Warner will start again after his nerves calm down a little.

The big question for the season is who are the teams to beat after an off-season of retooling? The Bengals did well with Carson Palmer leading them, even though losing the game. Michael Vick managed a victory against the 49ers, and Shaun Alexander had a huge night rushing with Priest Holmes. A lot of teams came out looking good; very few looked shabby and the biggest statistic of the night surprisingly did not come from Daunte Culpepper but from Steelers backup running back the Bus, Jerome Bettis. Bettis took five carries for three touchdowns and averaged...one yard for the whole game.

15 Minutes of Fame

... with Pfc. Roberto Chavez, Delta Co., 2-113th Infantry ...



Photo by Spc. Jody Metzger

By Spc. Jody Metzger

Pfc. Roberto Chavez, Delta Co., 2-113th Infantry Bn., joined the Army two years ago to make a difference after Sept. 11. Now he feels he is making that difference here at Guantanamo Bay.

The Wire: How long have you been in the military?

Pfc. Roberto Chavez: I have been in the Army for two years.

Why did you join?

I joined for the experience and because of Sept. 11. I figured with me enlisting, I would make a difference in the civilian world and also give more support to the military.

What have you done in the military to make it worthwhile?

I would say getting deployed here. I am that one extra body here securing the detainee facilities. Although I wasn't there in the time of war, I am here to make sure the detainees stay where they are supposed to be.

Why did you join the infantry?

A couple of my friends recommended it as a good job. I figured, what's better than the infantry? I heard it was very challeng-

ing, and that's what I liked about it.

What do you feel is most challenging about being in the infantry and in Guantanamo Bay?

It is the long hours that are really challenging. I think it's fine where we are living. When we were living in Camp Bulkeley it was a nightmare. I thought we were going to be there forever. Camp America is much better.

Is this your first deployment?

Yes, it is. The only time I was activated was when we had airport duty for about a week during Christmas. As airport security, we basically patrolled the inside and outside of the terminal. We were assigned to look for any suspicious activity or baggage. That was a good experience.

What is your best military experience?

I would say this one. This is the best experience I have had except basic training.

What do you think of this mission?

If I do get deployed again, I will definitely have experience. I think it is a good stepping stone to other deployments. I hope we don't get deployed again, but I would do it. The only reason I say that is I don't want to take the time away from my fam-

ily. It's hard.

When did you get married?

I got married at Fort Dix right before this deployment. We have been married for a few months now.

How does your wife feel about this deployment?

At first, she was very sad and depressed about going through the whole separation. I get on the phone with her, and we try to motivate each other.

What do you plan on doing after this?

As soon as I get back from this deployment, if I am not deployed anywhere else, I am planning on joining law enforcement. That is my dream—to be a police officer back in the civilian world. This deployment is actually helping me out. I have always wanted to be a police officer ever since I was little.

Have you done any criminal justice classes?

No, I am planning on doing that as soon as I get home.

What do you do as a civilian?

I was working in loss-prevention at a department store. I was also using that as a stepping-stone for law enforcement.

Troopers and the IG

JTF troopers can help themselves and the Inspector General (IG) by following these guidelines when preparing to visit the IG Office.

The first line of defense for solving problems in the military is your chain of command. Please give your chain of command the opportunity to assist you with your situation. They do want to help and resolve the problem. Be objective. Complete factual information ensures the most rapid resolution of any issue.

Remember that when you come to the IG, it will take time to deal with your concern. The IG works multiple issues every day. You're always welcome to call if you have a question about the status of your issue.

The IG office does not make policy or direct command action. The IG provides assistance by directing Troopers to the correct resources.

The answer you receive may not be the answer that you want. However, Troopers can rest assured it is the correct answer. If you have a question or any other matter that you can't solve in your chain of command, please feel free to contact the IG.

The IG phone number is 3501. You may visit the IG office in Camp America. The office is located in Building 7200 and is staffed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Assistance is available anytime by appointment.

BUSES

Chart shows bus stops and minutes after the hour when buses are scheduled. For example, the Sherman Avenue bus stops at East Caravella 03 and 33 minutes after the hour.

Sherman Avenue			Camp America/NEX		
First Street	00	30	Camp Alpha	00	20 40
East Caravella	03	33	NEX trailer	02	22 42
Marine Hill	05	35	Camp Delta 2	06	26 46
Post Office	10	40	TK 4	12	32 52
Windjammer	11	41	TK 1	16	36 56
NEX	14	44	Windjammer	23	43 03
Bulkeley Landing	17	47	NEX	30	50 10
Ferry landing	21	51	Windjammer	35	55 15
Commissions Bldg.	23	53	TK 1	40	00 20
Ordnance	26	56	TK 4	46	06 26
Bulkeley Landing	28	58	Camp Delta 1	52	12 32
NEX	32	02	Camp Alpha	00	20 40
Windjammer	36	06			
Post Office	37	07			
Marine Hill	41	11			
Hospital	48	18			
Windward Loop 1	52	22			

CINEMA

DOWNTOWN LYCEUM

CAMP BULKELEY

FRIDAY

8 p.m. *Thunderbirds*

PG 95 min

10 p.m. *Harold & Kumar*

R 87 min

SATURDAY

8 p.m. *I, Robot*

PG13 114 min

10 p.m. *The Village*

PG13 108 min

SUNDAY

8 p.m. *The Manchurian Candidate*

R 130 min

MONDAY

8 p.m. *A Cinderella Story*

PG 96 min

TUESDAY

8 p.m. *Thunderbirds*

PG 95 min

WEDNESDAY

8 p.m. *The Bourne Supremacy*

PG13 109 min

THURSDAY

8 p.m. *The Manchurian Candidate*

R 130 min

FRIDAY

8 p.m. *I, Robot*

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8 p.m. *The Village*

PG13 108 min

TUESDAY

8 p.m. *Cinderella Story*

PG 96 min

WEDNESDAY

8 p.m. *Thunderbirds*

PG 95 min

THURSDAY

8 p.m. *Catwoman*

PG13 104 min

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. in Room 4A at Chapel Hill.

Save the Sea Turtles

This is a reminder to Joint Task Force Troopers to keep all vehicles off the beaches—there are multiple sea turtle nests on the beaches this time of year. Bollards and cables are in place to alert drivers and pedestrians of areas to avoid on the beaches.

Annual GTMO Photo Contest!

The Annual Guantanamo Bay Photo Contest is coming up. All JTF Troopers are encouraged to participate and submit their best personal photograph taken while on the base. Submissions can be made to The Wire staff in building 4106, Camp America.

When taking photos for the contest, it is important to remember operations security. Any photos of detainee facilities and the shoreline from Windmill Beach to the Cuban-American fence line are prohibited, said Kevin Grant, OPSEC program manager. Troopers are allowed to take photos of their living areas, Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities, gyms, Club Survivor, the Chapel and recreational areas. Watch out for "no photography" signs.

The deadline for submitting photos is Nov. 1. Prizes have yet to be determined.

Your Chance to Trail Mix

A good trail mix gives you the added boost you need when you are out blazing the trails. Dried fruits and complex carbohydrates give you a burst of energy, while proteins fill you up and sodium replaces electrolytes lost through sweating. The best thing about making your own trail mix is being able to choose exactly what you want in it. The following list of ingredients are merely suggestions, you can put whatever you want into trail mix! This recipe goes out to our infantrymen, who are out there tackling the hills of Guantanamo every day.

You will need:

- One or two types of breakfast cereal. Choose a cereal

Mandatory Requirement Before Departing GTMO

Deployment Cycle Support (DCS) training is mandatory for all Joint Task Force Troopers within the 90 days before departure from Guantanamo Bay.

DCS classes are scheduled to be held Sept. 21 and 22, Oct. 5 and 6, Oct. 12 and 13, Nov. 3 and 4 and Dec. 13 and 14.

Classes are from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. the first day (required for everyone) and from 8:30 a.m. to noon the second day (required only for National Guard and Reserve).

The classes are in Trooper's Chapel in Camp America.

Unit administrators register their units, and individual augmentees register themselves by e-mailing Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Clifton Monk, J3 current operations at MonkCD@JTFGTMO.southcom.mil.

with high amounts of fiber and whole grains.

- Dried Fruits. A variety of fruits provide more vitamins and fiber. Some suggestions are raisins, cranberries, apricots, bananas, coconut, figs and apples. The possibilities are endless with dried fruits.

- Nuts and seeds. Nuts and seeds add protein and sodium to the mix. Some suggestions are peanuts, almonds, cashews and sunflower seeds.

- Chocolate chips

- Popcorn

Decide how much of each ingredient you want in your trail mix, then pour them all into a brown paper bag shake the bag vigorously.

WORSHIP

CAMP AMERICA

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant Service	Troopers Chapel
	6:45 p.m.	Catholic Mass	Troopers Chapel
	7:30 p.m.	Protestant Service	Bldg. 3203
Tuesday	7 p.m.	Alpha	Bldg. L001
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Soul Survivor	Club Survivor
Thursday	7 p.m.	Thursday Night Ticket	Bldg. L001
Saturday	3 p.m.	Saturday Vigil Mass	Troopers Chapel

NAVBASE CHAPEL

Sunday	8 a.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
	9 a.m.	Catholic Mass	Main Chapel
	9 a.m.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Sanctuary A
	9:30 a.m.	Protestant Sunday School	
	11 a.m.	Protestant Service	Main Chapel
Monday	1 p.m.	New Life Fellowship	Main Chapel
	5 p.m.	Pentecostal Gospel	Sanctuary C
Monday	7 p.m.	Prayer Group Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	7 p.m.	Family Home Evening	Room 8
Wednesday	7 p.m.	Men's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
Friday	1 p.m.	Islamic Prayer	Room 12
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Main Chapel

For information on Jewish services call 2323

DINING

Today	Lunch	Fish Amantine
	Dinner	Shrimp Scampi
Saturday	Lunch	Creole Pork Chops
	Dinner	Chicken Parmesan
Sunday	Lunch	Chicken Cordon Bleu
	Dinner	Roast Turkey
Monday	Lunch	Roast Beef
	Dinner	Chicken Adobo
Tuesday	Lunch	Baked Stuffed Pork Chops
	Dinner	Stuffed Flounder
Wednesday	Lunch	Turkey a la King
	Dinner	Sweet & Sour Pork
Thursday	Lunch	Sauerbraten
	Dinner	Scalloped Ham & Noodles
Friday	Lunch	Barbecued Beef Cubes
	Dinner	Seafood Platter